

Submitter: Frances Oyung
On Behalf Of: KS Wild
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

Submitted by the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild), Ashland, Oregon

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) is based in Ashland, Oregon and advocates for the wildlands, biodiversity, and clean water of southwest Oregon and northwest California. KS Wild represents approximately 10,000 members and supporters across Oregon and beyond.

The Private Forest Accord (PFA), was the result of decades of hard work by community members, organizers, and scientists including KS Wild calling for change and is the first major update to Oregon's logging rules on private forestlands in decades. KS Wild was one of the conservation groups that negotiated the PFA's significant improvements for clean water, forests, fish, and the people who rely on these resources.

It is critical to the success of the PFA that the state of Oregon gets a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) by 2027. Without federal approval, the new rules will be rolled back entirely to the outdated standards. While the development of an approved federal plan is on track, the funding provided by this bill is critical to completing the task.

The Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion would directly benefit from the PFA HCP and the funding that this bill provides. Please support full funding in the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (SB 5521) for two critical PFA programs:
\$10 million for the SFISH grant program for small forestland owners
\$6 million for the adaptive management program, designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the new rules

The state of Oregon has the chance to secure these improved protections for clean water, forests, and fish now and into the future by fully funding these programs. Thank you for your consideration.